

If the contest is to be between Ferdinand and Joseph, my decided opinion is that the latter will remain king of Spain; and whatever *my* wishes may be, the turtle patriots would rather that Joseph should be king, than that the war should terminate with the establishment of a free constitution."—  
POLITICAL REGISTER, Vol. 14. page 228. Aug. 13, 1808.

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PAPER MONEY.—In the foregoing number of the Register, at page 209, I inserted, upon this subject, an article from the *Kentish Gazette*, containing the process and result of a curious and useful calculation as to the real present worth of a one pound note of the Governor and Company of the Bank of England. The calculation was founded on the data furnished by the Bank Company themselves in their *Three Shilling Tokens*; and the result is, that the One Note of the Bank is worth 16s. 4½d.

Nothing could be more fair than the author's principle, and his result was perfectly correct. But, there is an error in the foundation on which the whole of his calculation is raised; and, of course, as all the calculations are correct, there is an error in the result, which error I have received by a reference to that admirable work, *Dr. Kelly's Universal Cambist*.

The *Kentish* Correspondent states the weight of the Three Shilling Bank Token is 11 grs. or 227 grs.; and, he adds, that the weight of *Three Shillings* is 11 dwts. or 279 grs. Hence he proceeds with his calculation, and very clearly demonstrates, that, on data furnished by the Bank Company themselves,

A Guinea is worth in Bank £. s. d.  
of England Notes ..... 1 5 9½

And

A One Pound Note of the Bank of England is worth 0 16 4½

But, this Gentleman, for whose pains I beg leave to offer him my sincere thanks, forgot, or he had never known (as would have been the case with me without the aid of *Dr. Kelly's Book*), that there is a considerable difference between the *fineness* of the *Token Silver* and the *Standard Silver*, and, of course, a considerable difference between the value of the one and that of the other. The *Token Silver* is the same with the *Dollar Silver*. The *Dollar* is not, as is generally supposed, worth 4s. 6d. sterling; but 4s. 3½d. as will be seen by referring to the *Universal Cambist*, Vol. I,

page 391; And, by a reference to the same page it will be seen, that the dollar silver is, in point of *fineness*, 8 dwts. worse than English Standard Silver. Therefore, as the Dollar is now issued at 5s. 6d. and its divisions in proportion, Bank Paper is to Sterling as 51½ to 66, which makes the Sterling value of the Three Shilling Token 2s. 4½d. and of the One Pound Note 15s. 8½d. Let us state the matter clear at the expence of a little repetition.

In Sterling,

	£.	s.	d.
The Pound Note is worth...	0	15	8½
The Five and Sixpenny Token .....	0	4	3½
The Three Shilling Token	0	2	4½
The Guinea .....	1	1	0
The Shilling .....	0	1	0

In Bank of England Paper,

	£.	s.	d.
The Pound Note is worth...	1	0	0
The Five and Sixpenny Token .....	0	5	6
The Three Shilling Token	0	3	0
The Guinea .....	1	6	9
The Shilling .....	0	1	3½
The Depreciation is, therefore, 27½ per centum.			

Now, let it be observed, that these results are drawn from data furnished by the Bank Company themselves in their *Three Shilling Tokens*. These Tokens not only declare the real value of the Bank Notes; but, they declare what the Bank Company themselves look upon as being the real value of their notes.—Those notes are, then, depreciated, in comparison with gold and silver, 27½ per centum; and, their pound note is really worth only 15s. 8½d. in good and lawful money of this realm.—If this be false, any one may shew it by figures; and, if no one does shew it by figures, let the Paper-Mill people for ever after hold their tongues.—If one wanted any thing more to establish the fact as well as the degree of deprecia-



tion, the state of the gold market and of the exchange would. The Portugal Gold coins, which are not all equal in fineness to our gold coin, now sell, leaving, of course, a profit to the broker, at £.4 17s. 6d. an ounce, if paid for in Bank of England Paper. Whereas, if that paper was not depreciated, the ounce of such coins would sell for no more than £.3 17s. 10½d. in the Bank Paper; because, as we have seen above, that is the value, in Sterling money, of an ounce of English Standard Gold. Under these circumstances, is it any wonder that we no longer see any gold or silver coin current? It would be very strange if we did, seeing that the guinea is worth £.1 6s. 9d. and the shilling, if good, worth 1s. 3½d. in Bank paper; and, the Crown and Half Crown, of course, in the same proportion.—As to the exchange, we will take the instance of France. By referring to the Universal Cambist, Vol. II, page 238, it will be seen, that the par of exchange between London and Paris is this: 25 livres, 11 sous and 6 deniers French for £.1 English. Now, if Monsieur Jacobin of Paris owed Sir Sothead Jubilee of London a pound, and Sothead wanted to apply the pound to the use of Sothead Junior who might be a prisoner in France, the elder Sothead would draw a Bill of Exchange for the purpose: that is to say, he would draw an order, or bill for £.1 upon Monsieur Jacobin, which, upon being presented by the younger Sothead, would, in due course be paid in the French money, livres, sous, and deniers; and, as we have seen above, young Sothead ought to receive 25 livres, 11 sous, and 6 deniers; but, “no,” says Monsieur Jacobin, “your English pound is not worth so much as it used to be. It is not a pound in specie that I owe to Sir Sothead Jubilee: it is a pound in Bank Paper, because what I bought of him was bought in that paper. Therefore I must pay you no more than the worth of one pound in Bank paper.” This point being settled, they look to the price Current and Course of Exchange of the day; and, if it were on last Friday, they would find, that, agreeably to the Statement published in London by Wetenhall, the sum to be paid to young Sothead would be only 18 Livres, instead of 25 Livres, 11 Sous, and 6 Deniers. So that here we see, that our Bank Paper has depreciated, or fallen in value, 7 Livres, 11 Sous, and 6 Deniers out of 25 Livres, 11 Sous and 6 Deniers;

which is, as nearly as can be, a fall of 27 per centum.—Thus is this fact of depreciation proved in all manner of ways; and yet are there hirelings to deny it. Their denials, however, answer no purpose. This is a point as to which all their tricks will be of no avail. Here is a steady principle at work, and nothing that can be said or done will put a stop to its progress.—The depreciation of the Bank Paper is daily and hourly appearing under fresh guises: it is gradually putting forth all the usual symptoms of total annihilation. At Bristol little pieces of silver, worth no more than eightpence sterling, have been issued by private individuals, and pass for a shilling, under the denomination of “necessary change.” At Louth, in Lincolnshire, a Company of Carpet Manufacturers, named Adam Eve and Co. have issued Notes for 2s. 6d. These Notes are mere printed cards (just like the assignats in France), payable to bearer; but, mark! not payable generally, but specifically in Bank Notes. Thus: “Pay the bearer for eight of these a one pound Bank Note.” And here, then, it all hangs together in a string! I have frequently said, that to these small notes we must come. I have all along said it. It is the regular, the natural, the inevitable progress; and, such notes we shall see in every part of the kingdom.—This Mr. Adam Eve seems to be the founder of the half crown notes. Not a bad name for an original inventor. His notes are veritable assignats. They are just such things as they used to have in France. They will breed amazingly; and, I dare say that Mr. Adam Eve will see the country people at Louth market with thousands and thousands of the progeny in their pocket books, of a denomination down so low as that of a halfpenny.—As the gold and silver rise in price, there must be more and more small notes, or, the tokens must be raised in their nominal value, or else, others must be put forth of the present nominal value, but of less weight or of a less pure quality. Perhaps all these three expedients will proceed hand in hand. But, at any rate, the present Tokens will not remain long in circulation, unless they be raised in nominal value; for, they will soon be worth hoarding, or selling to melt down, or to export. The guineas and other gold coins have disappeared along with the crowns and half crowns and tolerably good shillings; and, when the metals rise a little higher in price, the Tokens will march the





same way; for they can never be made to keep company with a paper that is depreciated lower than themselves.——The expedient of Mr. Adam Eve of making his assignats payable only in Bank Notes was, doubtless, arisen from the knowledge, which is now got abroad, that, as the law yet stands, a man may demand gold or silver for notes payable to bearer generally; and, this will answer his purpose; for, no one can enforce payment of them in any thing but Bank Notes. The example will, I dare say, be followed, by and by, all over the kingdom, by the Country Bankers, who will make their notes payable in Bank of England Notes. But, what will this do? It will not stop the thing an hour; but, on the contrary, will accelerate it greatly, by augmenting the quantity of paper, and, of course, adding to the depreciation.——I should be much obliged to any one who would send me one of Mr. Adam Eve's little notes; and to any other person who would send me one of the "necessary change" pieces from Bristol. It is not for the "base lucre" of the thing; but I have a desire to possess memorials of the progress of the grand event that is approaching. I have some of the *forged assignats*, and I should like to have one of Adam Eve's to keep them company. But, as to Mr. Adam Eve, he might, I think, send me from himself a quire or two of his money. It costs him nothing but the paper and print; and, if it were only as a brother author he might afford me so trifling a gratification.

SPAIN.—TARRAGONA.——The language of those who were indulging, some time ago, such very sanguine hopes as to the war in Spain, is a good deal changed. They begin to tell us of treasons at Cadiz; of enemies in our bosom; and, in short, of every thing which indicates coolness, disaffection, and a declining cause.——To the fall of Tarragona much of this has been ascribed; and, it must be allowed, that that event was well calculated to produce dismay amongst the people of Spain. Poor creatures! what are they, in any city or place, to do against such tremendous means as the French have to bring to bear against them? What are they to do? It is fine talking about their glorious cause; but, what are they to do?——At Tarragona, where the governor appears to have been a very gallant and skilful man; at Tarragona, strong by nature and by art; at Tarragona, which was, besides,

open to us by the sea, and, at all times capable of being assisted by us; at Tarragona if they could not, with a numerous garrison, defend themselves against the French, what have they to expect at any other place?——At Tarragona there was, it appears, an army of about ten thousand men, at the time when the assault took place. Between eight and nine thousand were actually made prisoners. This is a fearful fact. Why, ten thousand men ought to defend well-constructed works against fifty thousand; or, indeed, against almost any number that can possibly be brought to bear upon a fortified place. But, as the Spanish Governor himself says, his men would not meet the French in the breach. They behaved well enough, it seems, during the former part of the siege, and until the real fighting foot to foot began; but then they gave way; their hearts sunk within them; they were appalled; they fled in every direction; and, rather suffered themselves to be killed by their own officers than meet the French soldiers. There is no gainsaying this. It is the statement of the Spanish Governor himself; who says in so many words, that "the garrison behaved heroically up to the moment of the assault; that, even then the officers behaved well; that they, sabre in hand, made the greatest efforts to keep the soldiers to their duty, and to collect them, in order that they might resist and attack the French, who were pursuing and cutting them down in the streets. But," says he, "the terror of the soldiers increased every moment, and they let themselves be sabred even by us, without resolving to recommence the combat."——This is a most striking proof of the dread which the Spaniards have of the French; that they feel themselves inferior to them in point of courage; and, in short, that they are impressed with a conviction, that it is their fate to be conquered.——The accounts given by our own people of the close of this memorable siege agrees but too well with what has been published by the French, as will be seen in another part of this Number. But, I really do not see the policy (to say nothing of the justice) of our railing against Marshal Suchet and his army. If the French had railed against Lord Nelson on account of his victory off Trafalgar, which, in point of importance, may be put, perhaps, about upon a level with this achievement of Marshal



Suchet; if the French had railed against Lord Nelson upon that occasion, what good would that have done them? It would have made us laugh at them, to be sure, just as the French must now laugh at us. What is the use of calling Suchet and his army savages and monsters? That will do us no good, nor will it do the French any harm; and, as to the justice of the charge, though we have been informed by Suchet himself, that most terrible vengeance was taken upon the town, it was what the Governor was apprized of before hand, and what he might have avoided by timely surrender. He did not choose that: he shewed himself a brave man. But, then, he was to expect the consequences; the natural, the regular, consequences. Since war has been war those who have stood out and have been captured by assault have been given up to pillage. There may have been more than ordinary severity and brutality exercised at Tarragona for ought I know; but I know, that to give up the place to pillage was nothing more than what is fully authorized by the usages of war; and it is, I am inclined to think, what any English Commander would do in a similar case.—We have been assured in our newspapers, that the French lost above three thousand men before Tarragona. There were the lives of these men to avenge. We all know how vengeance gets treasured up during a long siege, in which, until the end, the besiegers generally suffer most.—But, at any rate, our horror at the conduct of the French and our compassion for the sufferings of the Spaniards have something about them truly distinctive of the character of the war we are now waging in the Peninsula. We urge the Spaniards (poor souls!) to make a gallant defence of their towns; we extol those who hold out against the French, and we execrate those who do not. We call these latter cowards and traitors, though we did not call, by either of those names, the garrison who last year surrendered at Almeida. In short, we do every thing, that we can possibly do, and say every thing, that we can possibly say, to induce every Spanish garrison to resist to the last. And, while we do this, and while we have loud and virulent censure at hand for those garrisons who do not so hold out, is it not rather too shameful for us to pull out our handkerchiefs and affect to blubber when we see a Spanish garrison put to the sword and a Spanish town

pillaged, which we well know are the natural and the general consequences of that very resistance which we so strongly recommend? But, we do more, as far as our public prints go; we do more than urge the Spaniards to this sort of moral resistance in their towns. We record of the Spaniards, that they, in numerous instances, *massacre the French without mercy*; that the Guerillas, as they are called by us, and the Banditti, as they are called by the French, cut to pieces all the Frenchmen they can lay their hands upon. These acts our public prints *applaud*; they bring them forward as proofs of the proper feeling of the Spaniards. And, while these prints do this, is it not a shame to hear them, in almost the same breath, revile the French for their barbarities towards the Spaniards, which are the necessary consequence of those acts of the Spaniards, which these prints so loudly commend?—Aye, we are told, but the French are *invaders*: they go into Spain as *conquerors*. Very true; and I am by no means inclined to justify the invasion and conquering of a country for the sake of conquest; but, it is, nevertheless, very well-known, that the circumstance of an enemy being engaged in an invasion, and in the pursuit of conquest; it is very well known, that this circumstance does not prevent such enemy from being considered as a *lawful* enemy, and from being treated according to the *usual customs of war*. If this were not the case; that is, if an invader with views of conquest were to be considered as shut out from the usual rules of war; if his soldiers were to be butchered in cold blood; if no quarter were to be shown his army on account of his being an *invader* with views of conquest, what would, in numerous cases, have been the fate of *our* armies? For, how many islands, principalities, and kingdoms, have we invaded and conquered? I am not, observe, attempting a justification of, or an apology for, the invasion of Spain by Napoleon: whether that invasion was just or unjust is a question which I will not here attempt to discuss, though it is a question which ought, one of these days, to be soberly and impartially gone into. I am not attempting, by citing *our own* conduct, to make any *excuse* for the invasion of Spain and Portugal by France, though I must express my fear, that our example at Copenhagen, coupled with our constant declarations, that we are *fighting the battles of England in the Peninsula*, which



we very often call the *outworks of England*; I must express my fear, that, with these facts before the world, we should not gain much in an accusation against the French that they have invaded the Peninsula without just cause. But, let us leave all these matters for the present, and return to the question as to the laws of war, as bearing upon the point before us; and, certainly these laws, if laws they may be called, do not authorize any distinction between the treatment of an invading army and an army that is not engaged in invasion; for, in fact, how are people to make war at all, upon land, without invasion? The Duke of Brunswick invaded France about twenty years ago, as he had before invaded Holland, with the very same Prussian army; but, his army was not considered as excluded from the usual rules of war. The Duke of York, our present Commander in Chief, invaded France sometime after the invasion of the Duke of Brunswick; he was at the taking of a town or two, and attempted to take others. But, did ever any one hear of his army being refused quarter, or treated differently from the usual course of war? No: and, when the French republicans threatened to do it, were they not menaced with retaliation?—Hence, then, it is clear, that the French army in Spain ought to be considered as a lawful enemy, an enemy entitled to the treatment prescribed by the usual practices of war. Therefore, if we applaud (as our prints mostly do) acts of massacre committed by the Spaniards upon parcels of the French army; if this be our custom, with what decency do we set up such loud complaints against the French for their massacring of the Spaniards? I do not know which party *began* the bloody work; but, this I know, that we *applaud it* in the Spaniards, and I also know, that we therein do all in our power to keep it up on both sides, seeing that we must be well assured, that the French will not be behind hand in the way of retaliation.—Let us therefore, hear no more of these compassionate effusions in favour of the Spaniards and of these revilings of the French, until we have quite cleared ourselves of the charge of being *instigators*.—The same reasoning will apply to *all the evils* of the war in the Peninsula. We seem to think that the world has but one eye and one ear; an eye kept steadily upon the ambitious conduct of France, and an ear to listen only to our tale. We deceive ourselves

most grossly. The world has two eyes and two ears. The world saw us take possession of the Danish fleet; because *what?* Why, because there was every likelihood, that, if we did not take possession of it, Napoleon would take possession of it, and would use it against us. If the reader applies this, but for half a moment, to the case of Spain and Portugal, he will see, that all the argument is not on one side.—But, if the war be productive of such terrible evils to the Peninsula, and if we do really feel for the unhappy people, why do we prolong this war? For, no one will deny, that we are the real supporters of the war in Spain as well as in Portugal. “What!” Some one will say; “put an end to the war by withdrawing our aid and support.” Very melancholy to be sure; but, then, leave off whining about what the Spaniards and Portuguese suffer from the war.—“What!” “give up the Peninsula to the Corsican Upstart, and thus retire in disgrace before him, all our noble commanders, all our Lords and all our Squires, leave the field before a parcel of old Serjeants and Corporals, the sons of farmers and labourers.” It would be a shame, indeed; but, then, let us not talk any longer about the sufferings of the poor Spaniards and Portuguese on account of the war: let us drop that cant.—“What! quit the Peninsula, where *we are fighting the battles of England?*” No, no: to be sure not; but, then, for decency sake, do not say another word about compassion for the people of Spain and Portugal who suffer from the existence of the war.—We have not here been discussing the question whether our cause be good or bad in the Peninsula: we have been discussing this question, whether it be wise or foolish in us to affect so much compassion for the sufferings of the people in those countries, and to talk so much about the extent of those sufferings; and, if my reasoning upon the subject be correct, we shall, I think, do well, in future, to hold our tongues respecting those sufferings.—I propose now to add a few remarks upon the cause of Spain and Portugal generally, taking things in a more enlarged view. These remarks are suggested by an article in the *Courier* of the 20th instant, manifestly written with a view of palliating the reverses which have recently taken place, and (an object never overlooked) of inculcating a belief that all those who did not, or do not, approve of the war in the Penin-



sula, are little better than traitors. The writer, after a great deal of labour to little effect for the above purpose, has these remarks: "But let us make Spain the test of the patriotism of these men; for true virtue is universal in its operation, and Spain affords an instance of the clearest villainy on the part of the enemy. When the French troops began to put in execution the designs of their master, then they told us that it was time that the old government of Spain should be destroyed; the French would regenerate the country and the people would gladly receive them. But when the people began to associate in different parts to oppose the French, our adorers of the majesty of the people were for a time silenced. They were, however, relieved by the circumstance of the insurrection not becoming at once general. O! then, it was not the people who were resisting the French, but a blinded mob, infuriated by priests and fanatic monks. At one time there was a hope indulged that the refractory Spaniards would form a republic, and then, and only then, did British patriots seem to feel an interest in their success; but this idea soon vanished; and as soon as it was determined to preserve the monarchy under Ferdinand, they withdrew their good wishes, as it should seem, for ever. Since that period their joy at the success of the French has been ill disguised, and their spleen at the triumphs of the allies openly discovered."—If our spleen has been moved only by the triumphs of the allies; there cannot have been much of spleen since the French entered the Peninsula; and, on the other hand, if we did rejoice at the success of the French, it must have been a continual toil to us to disguise it. However, this is all assertion: it is the offspring of the spite of those who live upon the taxes.—But, as to the history of our wishes in the case of the Peninsula, and of Spain in particular, what does this writer say? Why, that, at first, when the French entered Spain, we said "that is good: the old government of Spain will now be destroyed, at any rate; but that when the people began to move against the French, we were, for a time, silenced."—Now, who is in the shape of man, except he be a Public Robber, a down-right Robber, that does not think, that it would have been a good change for Spain to get rid of the old government at any rate? But, how much better to see

Spain free; and, therefore, when we saw something like a spirit of liberty, breaking forth amongst the Spaniards, we were, not silenced, as this writer here says; but, as he afterwards truly says, in hopes that the Spaniards would form a new government, though no one talked of a republic. "But" says he, "this idea soon vanished; and, as soon as it was determined to preserve the monarchy under Ferdinand, they withdrew their good wishes, as it should seem for ever."—No: not for ever. That is a mistake: our good wishes the Spaniards always will have as far as they shall be found engaged in the cause of freedom, which is their cause and our cause and the cause of all the nations upon earth; but, between Joseph and Ferdinand we do not profess to be able to judge.—We quitted the cause, it seems, as "soon as it was determined to preserve the monarchy under Ferdinand." But, who was it that came to this determination? Was it the people of Spain? The first that we, in England, heard of such a determination was at the memorable Turtle Patriot dinner in the City of London, where Mr. Canning, then a Secretary of State, introduced the new king to us, and toasted him as king of Spain, though his father was notoriously still alive, and though he be alive yet.\* This was the first that we heard of any determination to preserve the Spanish monarchy under Ferdinand; and, when we did hear of it; when we did find that a war was about to be entered upon for such a purpose, we expressed the opinion contained in my motto, and gave very ample reasons why such a war could never succeed. We said, that, to resist the French required a thorough conviction in the minds of the people that such resistance would lead to their freedom; that to make a people fight in defence of their country against an invader, you must make them feel that his success would be injurious to them; that the influence of nobles, priests, or of prejudice, though it might serve to rouse the people sufficiently for the purposes of partial warfare, and might produce some very sanguinary conflicts, would never be sufficient to resist, in the end, the armies of France; that there wanted, for this purpose, a new soul in Spain, a dislocation of society, an event, in short, like the French revolution, without its bloodshed, and that nothing short of that would enable the

\* See Vol. 14, p. 226.



country to resist the armies of Napoleon. This was what we said: we did not ask for republics or any other particular fancy: we only asked for freedom to the people of Spain: and we gave our reasons for believing, that, unless freedom was given to Spain, the French would become masters of the country; an opinion which seems, at last, not to be thought so very wild; and it will, I imagine, not be long before this "most thinking nation in Europe," will pretty clearly perceive, that it would have been better if our advice had been followed.

In my next I shall state, as fully and as clearly as I am able, the whole of the case relating to the Dispute with America, which has been delayed hitherto for want of certain points of information, which I now possess.

WM. COBBETT.

State Prison, Newgate, Friday,  
August 23, 1811.

#### OFFICIAL PAPERS.

SPAIN.—TARRAGONA.—*Account of the Siege and Capture of this place, in letters from Capt. Adam, Col. Green, and Capt. Codrington, to Admiral Cotton, Commanding in the Mediterranean,—From the 5th to the 28th June, 1811.*

*Invincible, Tarragona-roads,  
June 5, 1811.*

Sir;—On the 28th in the morning the enemy opened his fire on fort Olivo from two batteries, one of four guns and a mortar, the other of three guns and an howitzer, placed on the flank of the fort. About mid day of the 29th, Colonel Green examined the works of the Olivo, owing to a report from an officer that its defences were in a bad state, and he found them very much destroyed. At night it was intended to substitute the regiment of Almeria for that of Iberia, which had been hitherto in the fort; and after dark the former regiment was marched out of the town for that purpose; but I am sorry to say the enemy found means to mingle himself with that regiment, and he got possession of the Olivo without firing a shot, making nine hundred men prisoners.

The enemy's force at present is considered to be between ten and eleven thousand men; he is supposed to have lost four thousand since the commencement of the siege in killed and wounded, and deserters.

The Spaniards, including the prisoners made at the Olivo, have lost about three thousand. CHARLES ADAM.

*Tarragona, June 11, 1811.*

Sir;—The small advanced work on the sea-beach, called the Francoli, was destroyed in four hours by the batteries thrown up in the night of the 6th instant; but its situation was such as always to have made its tenure very uncertain, by being very much detached. On this occasion the conduct of the Spanish troops was particularly gallant; all the men who occupied the Francoli, to the amount of one hundred and forty-five, being either killed or wounded, and the officer in command having left the fort the last person. The enemy has since made several attempts to carry these works, which protect the communication between the sea and the town, but by the vigilance and bravery of Brigadier Sarsfield, who commands these defences, they have been repulsed with considerable loss; and, indeed, in one instance, though the enemy had rallied three times, he was completely defeated in his object. But the very hard work by day in constructing works for the support of the lines, which becomes necessary in consequence of the radical defects of the fortifications, and the constant alarms and attacks by night, causes serious anxiety for the earliest relief.

E. R. GREEN.

*Blake, off Villa Nueva,  
June 15th, 1811.*

Sir;—As Captain Adam has informed you of the occurrences at Tarragona, during my absence, up to the 5th of June, I have only to add, that although the French have advanced their works to within half pistol shot of the lines of the Puerto, besides having entirely destroyed the battery of Francoli, and formed a post under the position of its ruins, they have been beaten off with very serious loss on their part in some desperate attempts to storm the Orleans and Saint Joseph batteries; and that the Spaniards under General Sarsfield have made several successful sorties with the few troops that could be spared for the purpose. My last letter to you, dated the 15th of May, will have informed you of my intention of proceeding to Valencia and Alicante with General Doyle, and I have now to make known to you the successful result of our visit to those places.—Leaving Tarragona on the 16th, we reached Peniscola on the fore-



noon of the 17th, where, finding the *Invincible*, with four empty transports, bound to Carthagena, I directed Captain Adam to remain until he heard farther from me. From thence General Doyle wrote to General O'Donnell an account of the situation of Tarragona, and of my detaining Captain Adam at Peniscola in readiness to receive any reinforcements which he might be pleased to send to that garrison. Upon our arrival at Murviedra we found General O'Donnell had already ordered the embarkation of two thousand three hundred infantry, and two hundred and eleven artillerymen, &c. which, by the zeal and exertion of Captain Adam, who received seven hundred of them on board the *Invincible*, were safely landed at Tarragona on the 22nd.—Delivering to General O'Donnell two thousand stand of arms, accoutrement, and clothing, to enable him to bring into the field as many of the recruits already trained as would supply the place of the regular soldiers thus detached from his army, we proceeded to Valencia, and landed the remainder of our cargo; by which means the troops of General Villa Campa, then dispersed as peasantry for want of arms, were enabled again to take the field, and the corps of Mina and Empecinado completed in all the requisites for active warfare, and the army of Arragon thus brought forward to act in concert with the movements of that of Valencia.—At Alicant we procured as many necessary materials for Tarragona as the ship would actually stow, besides eighty artillerymen, and a considerable quantity of powder, ball cartridge, lead, &c. sent in the *Paloma* Spanish corvette from Carthagena, in company with a Spanish transport from Cadiz, deeply laden with similar supplies. As it was impossible to receive these stores on board the *Blake*, they were conveyed at my request in the *Paloma*, with the ship under convoy, directly to Tarragona.—After returning to Valencia, where we landed the additional arms, &c. for the Arragonese army, we moved on to Murviedra; where the Count of Bisbal proceeded from Valencia to join us in a consultation with his brother, although on account of his wound, he was very unfit for such a journey. The result of this conference was a determination on the part of General O'Donnell to commit to my protection, for the succour of Tarragona, another division of his best troops, under Major-General Miranda, consisting of four thousand men,

whilst he himself would move forward with the remainder of his army to the banks of the Ebro; where, in concert with the Arragonese division, he might threaten, and perhaps destroy, the different depôts of General Suchet. I therefore hastened to Tarragona, to collect the necessary shipping, for the purpose of giving action to their liberal and patriotic intentions. Again, fortunately meeting the *Invincible* on the night of the 6th, I directed Captain Adam to anchor at Peniscola, and wait my return to that rendezvous in company with Captain Pringle, whom I ordered to do the same with the *Sparrowhawk* and the transport *William*, whenever he should have landed the mortars, &c. at Valencia, with which he was charged.—On the morning of the 7th we reached Tarragona, landed the whole of our cargo in the course of the night; and, after a consultation with General Contreras, again left that anchorage at ten o'clock in the forenoon of the 8th, taking the *Paloma* along with us.—We reached Peniscola on the noon of the 9th, where the *Invincible* had already anchored with the four transports, and were joined on the 10th by the *Centour*, *Sparrowhawk*, and *William* transport.—From the critical situation of Tarragona, I left orders with Captain Bullen, that whatever ships of war might arrive before my return, should join me immediately; and to Captain White's promptness in obeying this order, and consenting in common with Captain Adam and myself to receive each a battalion of eight hundred troops, with the proper proportion of officers, I am indebted for the power of embarking the whole four thousand on the forenoon of the 11th, and landing them at the garrison of Tarragona during the night of the 12th.—As soon as the troops were ready for embarkation at Peniscola, I sent the *Sparrowhawk* forward to prepare the garrison and also the Marquis of Campo Verde for our arrival, in consequence of the Marquis's letter in answer to General Miranda requesting I would again embark his division for the purpose of joining the Marquis in the neighbourhood of Villa Nueva de Sitges, in order to threaten the flank of the besieging army. And this farther service was so speedily executed by means of the boats of the squadron, that the whole division was again safely landed at this place on the evening of yesterday, from whence it marched this morning for Villa Franca, intending to join the Mar-



quis of Campo Verde, to-morrow, at Iquialada.—EDWARD CODRINGTON.

*Blake, in Tarragona-Roads,  
June 23, 1811.*

Sir,—Besides employing the gun-boats and launches during the whole of every night in annoying the enemy's working parties, I have supplied the garrison with above three thousand sand-bags made by the squadron, and sent all the women, children, and wounded people by the transports to Villa Nueva; added to which the boats of the squadron under the particular directions of Captain Adam, but assisted by Captain White and myself, took off above two hundred men who retreated to the Mole after the French had taken the batteries, and who were safely landed again during the night at the Milagro, that is, within the works on the east side of the town. And in order to counteract the depression which might ensue from the extensive and unexpected advantages gained by the enemy on the night of the 21st, I yesterday led the squadron as near to the Mole and Puerto as could be done with safety, and drove the enemy from the advanced position they had taken. This position, which was taken with the view of picking off the artillerymen at their guns, as they did on the lines of the Puerto, was immediately afterwards, and still remains, occupied by the Spanish Guerillas.—But the French are making a work near the Fuerte Real battery, from which they will quickly breach the wall of the town, and are digging their trenches in such a direction as will secure them from the fire of the shipping. In the mean time they are destroying the Custom-house, the large stores, and all the buildings of the Puerto, in order, I presume, to ruin the place as much as possible; and I have no doubt but the town will share the same fate, if it should unfortunately fall into their hands.—The Baron de Eroles has taken a convoy of five hundred mules laden, and destroyed some of the escort.—The exertion and ability of the French in besieging this place has never, I believe, been exceeded; and I trust the brave garrison will still make a defence worthy the brilliant example which has been set them in some other parts of the Peninsula: but I am sorry to say the safety of the place now seems to depend particularly upon the army of the Marquis of Campo Verde; and I fear the town will eventually fall a

prey to the merciless and sanguinary enemy, who has so greatly circumscribed its means of defence.

EDWARD CODRINGTON.

*Blake, off Tarragona, June 29, 1811.*

Sir,—Yesterday morning, at dawn of day, the French opened their fire upon the town; about half past five in the afternoon a breach was made in the works, and the place carried by assault immediately afterwards. From the rapidity with which they entered, I fear they met with but little opposition; and upon the Barcelona side a general panic took place. Those already without the walls, stripped and endeavoured to swim off to the shipping, while those within were seen sliding down the face of the batteries; each party thus equally endangering their lives more than they would have done by a firm resistance to the enemy.—A large mass of people, some with muskets and some without, then pressed forward along the road, suffering themselves to be fired upon by about twenty French, who continued running beside them at only a few yards distance. At length they were stopped entirely by a volley of fire from one small party of the enemy, who had entrenched themselves at a turn of the road, supported by a second a little higher up, who opened a masked battery of two field-pieces. A horrible butchery then ensued; and shortly afterwards, the remainder of these poor wretches, amounting to above three thousand, tamely submitted to be led away prisoners by less than as many hundred French.—The launches and gun-boats went from the ships the instant the enemy were observed by the Invincible (which lay to the westward) to be collecting in their trenches; and yet, so rapid was their success, that the whole was over before we could open our fire with effect.—All the boats of the squadron and transports were sent to assist those who were swimming or concealed under the rocks; and, notwithstanding a heavy fire of mortuary and field-pieces, which was warmly and successfully returned by the launches and gun-boats, from five to six hundred were then brought off to the shipping, many of them badly wounded.—I cannot conclude my history of our operations at Tarragona without assuring you, that the zeal and exertion of those under my command, in every branch of the various services which have fallen to their lot, has been carried far beyond the mere dictates



of duty.—The *Invincible* and *Centaur* have remained with me the whole time immediately off Tarragona, and Captains Adam, White, and myself have passed most nights in our gigs, carrying on such operations under cover of the dark as could not have been successfully employed in sight of the enemy; I do not mean as to mere danger, for the boats have been assailed by shot and shells both night and day, even during the time of their taking off the women and children, as well as the wounded, without being in the smallest degree diverted from their purpose.—It is impossible to detail in a letter all that has passed during this short but tragic period; but humanity has given increased excitement to our exertions; and the bodily powers of Captain Adam have enabled him perhaps to push to greater extent that desire to relieve distress which we have all partaken in common.—Our own ships, as well as the transports, have been the receptacles of the miserable objects which saw no shelter but in the English squadron; and you will see by the orders which I have found it necessary to give, that we have been called upon to clothe the naked, and feed the starving, beyond the regular rules of our service.—Our boats have suffered occasionally from the shot of the enemy, as well as from the rocks from which they have embarked the people; amongst others the barge of the *Blake*, which however, I was so fortunate as to recover after being swamped and upset, in consequence of a shot passing through both her sides, with the loss only of one woman and child killed out of twelve, which were then on board in addition to her crew. But the only casualty of importance which has happened in the squadron is that which befel the *Centaur's* launch on the evening of the 28th, and I beg to refer you particularly to the observations of Captain White respecting Lieutenant Ashworth, whose conduct and whose misfortune entitle him to every consideration.

EDWARD CODRINGTON.

Captain Codrington farther states, that he had received intelligence that General Contreras was wounded and made prisoner, and that the General personally distinguished himself; that the Governor (Gonzales), with a handful of men, defended himself to the last, and was bayoneted to death in the square near his house; that man, woman, and child were put to the sword upon the French first en-

tering the town, and afterwards all those found in uniform or with arms in their houses; and that many of the women and young girls of ten years old, were treated in the most inhuman way; and that after the soldiers had satisfied their lust, many of them, *it was reported*, were thrown into the flames, together with the badly-wounded Spaniards; one thousand men had been left to destroy the works; *the whole city was burnt to ashes*, or would be so, as the houses were all set fire to; the only chance in their favour was the calm weather and the sudden march of the French, by which some houses might escape.

GENERAL MEMORANDUM. — Whereas, from the present distressed situation of Tarragona, many families may be obliged to embark without the necessary means of existence, until they can be conveyed to other places on the coast, where the customary generosity of the people will ensure them a share of what they may have for their own subsistence.—It is my direction that the ships of the English squadron furnish them with such provision, for the time of their embarkation and transport, as the humanity and liberality of our country will dictate.—A separate account of the provision so expended is hereafter to be given to me, regularly signed by the proper officers, for the information of the Victualling Board, instead of the people being borne for victuals as passengers usually are. — EDWARD CODRINGTON. — *Blake, in Tarragona Roads, June 25, 1811.*

GENERAL MEMORANDUM. — Whereas, in consequence of the town of Tarragona being taken this evening by assault, numbers of the troops and inhabitants who have been received on board the different ships and vessels of the squadron perfectly naked, it is my direction that they may be supplied with such articles of clothing as a due regard to decency and humanity may absolutely require.

EDWARD CODRINGTON.

*Blake, in Tarragona Roads, June 28, 1811.*

SPAIN.—*French Official News from the Armies.—Paris, 9th August, 1811.*

*Madrid, July 16.*—Yesterday was a day of rejoicing for this capital. The King, our Sovereign, entered it on his return from his journey, at half-past six in the evening, amidst the acclamations of an immense multitude, who awaited and



followed him to the Palace. A salute of artillery had announced to the inhabitants of Madrid the dawn of this happy day.—The Prefect of Madrid repaired to the confines of his prefecture, and there presented to his Majesty the homage of all the province.—The Commandant of the army of the centre, and the Governor of Madrid, went to the same place to receive his Majesty: they accompanied him as far as the Palace.—The troops of the garrison were drawn up in line along the whole of the road.—The Municipality, headed by the Corregidor, received his Majesty under an arch erected before the gate by which he was to enter; and the Corregidor had the honour to present the keys of this capital to his Majesty.—On alighting from his carriage, the King was received by the Ministers, the Counsellors of State, the Officers of the Household, the Grandees and Nobility, the Generals and military officers not on duty, the Members of Tribunals, and principal Ecclesiastics. His Majesty condescended to address them with his characteristic affability.—A general illumination took place in the night, and this day bull-fights will be exhibited to the people gratis, and the theatres will also be opened gratuitously.

*Official News from the Armies in Spain.*

CATALONIA.—Marshal Suchet, after the capture of Tarragona, marched towards the interior of Catalonia. The assemblages which Campoverde had attempted to organise dispersed in haste; the Marshal's presence made to fall back upon Agrament the corps assembled at Igualada about the end of the siege; it is entirely disbanded; the men are hastening to their homes in small bands, selling their arms and their horses for bread; most of these parties threw themselves into the mountains of Arragon, when they are falling into the hands of the gendarmerie, and of the moveable columns which were sent in pursuit of them. Marshal Suchet has marched upon Vicque, where he was expected on the 13th of July. The assemblage at Olot dispersed in its turn, on his approach. Campoverde, abandoned by all his followers, was obliged to embark on the 14th at Mattaro, pursued by the inhabitants of the coast, who plundered his baggage.—Some days before the departure of Campoverde, General M. Matthieu sent a detachment to Mattaro, which burnt and destroyed the magazines which the enemy wished to form at that point; an hundred

of the insurgents were killed; ten English ships of war vainly endeavoured to protect Mattaro; their hot fire cost us only 3 men and 3 horses.—The English at present are before Palamos, without daring to land.—The fortress of Figueras is more completely shut up than ever; all the horses have been eaten, a little flour is all they have left; the lines are watched with double vigilance, to prevent all escape on the part of the garrison, who must soon surrender at discretion.—The enemy's commandant, from the want of provisions, has dismissed unconditionally the prisoners which he took in the fort, amounting to 850.—In the mean while a corps of the army of Arragon is on its march against Valencia, and is collecting within reach of that town, a depot of ammunition and provisions, for the purpose of forthwith reducing the province.

*District of the Army of the North.*

The Duke of Istria having learned that an assemblage of Gallicians was forming in the valley of Vierzo, and threatened to cut off the communication between Leon and the Asturias, thought it necessary to concentrate a part of his troops, and for a moment to draw nearer to him the corps of General Bonnet, who received orders to repair to Leon about the 20th of June, after having sufficiently protected the line of the Deba. The fortifications of Astorga being considered useless and burthensome, the Duke of Istria ordered them to be razed.—On the 23d of June, the advanced guard of the insurgents made its appearance at Benavides. General Valletaux forthwith set out with 3 battallions, and 60 chasseurs. The ardour of the troops could not be restrained; the sharpshooters dashed forward in pursuit of the enemy, and drove them to Quintanilla del Valle. In this position the enemy's army was perceived, 7,000 strong; they were too far engaged to be able to retreat; the General made his dispositions without calculating the number of the enemy, and ordered the village to be attacked. It was carried with impetuosity, in spite of the efforts of the enemy, who was compelled to take a position in the rear. The 119th took post to the right, beyond the village; the 122d was opposed to the enemy's columns which had formed on the roads to Fontoria and Quintana Dejor; the Chief of Battalion, Durrel, kept in check, on the left, the troops which came from Astorga, and which made



fruitless efforts to turn him.—The action thus began was successful; our soldiers won the field of battle, on which were found 600 of the enemy dead; the number of their wounded was much more considerable.—This brilliant affair does honour to the last moments of General Valletaux, who was killed at the close of the combat; while dying he saw the defeat of the enemy; together with him we lament the loss of 30 brave men; we had 87 wounded. The Chief of Battalion, Pati, Aid-de-camp Meda, and Captain Grassi, of the 28th Chasseurs, deserve praises: as well as all the officers and soldiers of this detachment.—The enemy had retired beyond Astorga; General Bonnet reconnoitred him about the 10th of July; all the necessary measures were taken for attacking this assemblage, commanded by Santocildes.—The band of Pastor, lately formidable to Biscay, is now reduced to a few banditti, whose numbers the gendarmerie daily diminish.—Longa, another chief of brigands, is hotly pursued by the moveable columns: he no longer knows where to find an asylum; his followers are availing themselves of the amnesty to surrender at discretion.—General Dorsenne is arrived at Valladolid to take the chief command of the army of the North. He immediately sent the General of Division Dumoutier, with 10,000 men and 1,500 horse, to take a position on the Coa, in advance of Ciudad Rodrigo.—Four divisions of the army of reserve have entered by Pampeluna and Vittoria. The fine appearance of these troops, of whom the lowest soldier has seen four years' service, has strongly surprised the inhabitants, and given them a new pledge of the uselessness of all the efforts of England.

*District of the Army of the Centre.*

Major Montigny, commanding the depots of cavalry at Madrigal, having learned that several united bands were moving upon Penaranda, concerted measures with the Commandant of Arevalo. On the first of July, two columns assembled at Flores D'Avila under the orders of Major Montigny. At day-break the enemy were discovered bivouacking near Penaranda, to the number of 1,000 men; the Major so rapidly charged them with his troop, that the brigands had not time to mount their horses. The streets, the houses, and environs of Penaranda were instantly covered with

dead bodies; near 400 brigands were left lying in the town, 100 were taken, the rest were pursued, and sabred in the corn-fields. Three hundred horses, one standard, 50 carts laden with salt, and all the baggage of the band, remained in the hands of the soldiers. Morales, one of their chiefs, was found among the dead.—The Junta of Valencia had given to General Sayas the command of all the united bands of the provinces of Cuenca; on the 3d of July that General made a movement towards Jadraque: reconnoitring parties belonging to our posts in Guadalaxara exchanged shots on the same day with the enemy's advanced posts near Hita.—On the 5th July, General Hugo was in readiness to march against the enemy, and to force his positions in order to drive him back upon the left of the Tagus. General Lahoussaye was ordered to advance in order to cut off the enemy's retreat. Sayas did not await them; he immediately commenced a retrograde movement with all his troops to the amount of 6,000 men, marching straight upon the Tagus. General Hugo set out in pursuit of him, while General Lahoussaye, leaving Guadalaxara, advanced by forced marches towards the bridge of Aunon, where he hoped to cut off the enemy's passage, who appeared to be retiring upon Cuenca. General Sayas had already passed the Tagus and collected his force at Val de Oliva. On the 11th General Lahoussaye crossed over his troops in haste; at the entrance of a defile his advanced guard fell upon the cavalry of Manco, supported by a battalion of infantry which Sayas had sent to take possession of the bridge of Aunon; 50 dragoons and a company of the 75th of the line intrepidly charged the enemy, routed and pursued them sword in hand as far as Sancon, where all our cavalry assembled; the enemy was at last come up with between Alcocer and Val de Oliva. Three battalions and two squadrons were drawn up, and thought to defend themselves by forming a square; the French cavalry soon broke through them, and all that were not sabred on the spot were taken.—A thousand prisoners, a number of whom are officers, 600 killed, one standard, all their baggage, about 200 horses, and a considerable convoy of cattle, are the results of this affair.—The remains of the troops of Sayas precipitately fled towards Cuenca. General Lahoussaye will not cease the pursuit till this corps shall no longer exist. The misunderstandings among the



chiefs, the desertion of the soldiers, the absolute want of every thing, powerfully contribute to its destruction. More than 1,200 guerrillos have already returned to their homes; Martines, one of their chiefs, has surrendered with all his officers; Sayas is retiring upon Valencia.—The King has arrived at Madrid; he received upon his road the most unequivocal testimonies of the love of true Spaniards; his presence has electrified all minds; opinions are approximating.

#### *Army of Portugal.*

The English army has taken up cantonments around Portalegre, and keeps upon the defensive. The Duke of Ragusa has his head-quarters always at Merida, from whence he scours the country as far as the enemy's lines. Badajoz being in a formidable state of defence, and provisioned for 3 months, the Duke of Ragusa means to put his army into quarters for refreshment, in the Valley of the Tagus, with only an advanced guard on the Guadiana, during the heats of the month of August, which render the Valley of the Guadiana extremely unwholesome. The fifth corps will, during that period, keep up the communication between the army of Portugal and that of the South.

#### *District of the Army of the South.*

The 1st corps is constantly exerting the greatest activity in the works of the blockade of Cadiz. Puerto Santa Maria and Puerto Real are become very strong places; new batteries have been erected both on the side towards the sea, and upon all the approaches by land; they are connected by lines which also are defended by very strong batteries.—On the 13th of June, the garrison of the Isle of Leon attempted a sally against our works at the Arracise: 1,200 men advanced to our out-posts, while all the batteries and enemy's gun-boats kept up a violent fire upon the lines of Chiclana; but all this mighty racket produced so little effect, that our batteries at Chiclana scarcely deigned to return their fire. The infantry met a worse reception at the Arrecife. After a two hours fire of musketry, the enemy was compelled to save himself in haste, leaving a great many killed on the field of battle, and carrying off a great number of wounded.—Colonel Bonnemain had been sent to reconnoitre towards Tariffa, with 600 men. On the 9th of June he encountered at Sanona, an enemy's

party of the same force, consisting of English and some Spaniards, and posted on steep rocks. Col. Bonnemain took his dispositions so well, that the enemy, in spite of the advantage of the ground, was routed and forced to retire upon Algesiras, abandoning some prisoners and a convoy of 100 ballocks.—The enemy reckoned on being able to take advantage of the moment, when the bulk of the army of the south had marched into Estremadura, in order to attack in force the town of Ronda. General Bejinie, at the head of three regiments of the camp of St. Roch and of the peasants of the vicinity, on the 4th of June, advanced to form the blockade of Ronda, which was defended by some companies of the 43rd of the line. The Duke of Belluno immediately caused to set out from Seville a column of troops, under the orders of Adjutant-Commandant Remond; a second column, commanded by General Pecheux, at the same time set out from the 1st corps; they united at Meron on the 15th. The enemy confiding in his strength, drew up in order of battle, two leagues from Ronda; but he was attacked with such impetuosity by our troops, that in a few moments he was broke and routed along all his line; a horrible carnage followed; near 500 dead remained on the spot, with 900 wounded; the regiments of Siguenza and of Ronda were almost entirely destroyed. The remains of the enemy's division escaped only by the help of rocks, where our cavalry could not reach them.—Our columns the same day entered Ronda, which was completely re-victualled.

FRANCE.—*Speech of COUNT SEGUR, Orator of the Council of State, to the Legislative Body, at the Close of the Session, July 25, 1811.*

(Concluded from p. 224.)

...Previous to opening it, the Emperor wished you should be collected round his throne; he wished to be surrounded by you when he went to the temple to return thanks to the Eternal for the birth of that infant king, who has completed our wishes, and realized our hopes: you have been witnesses of that pompous ceremony, the holiness of the place, the majesty of the throne, the union of Princes, of the Nobility, of the first corps of the empire, of the deputies from the towns, the offering of an infant dedicated to God, by glory and virtue united. The emotion of the assistants,



and the acclamations of an immense people, which on the same day were repeated throughout the extent of this vast empire—this noble and touching picture is too deeply engraved in your memories, to allow me to attempt to retrace it.—If I spoke of that universal sentiment that excited the public happiness, I should but repeat your own words, express as every Frenchman does the joy that birth has caused which guarantees the solidity of our destiny, the duration of our glory; which constitutes the happiness of our august Sovereign and his beloved consort.—In the midst of the fêtes which were given to celebrate this great event, the Emperor came to this place: he has informed you of the motives of high policy which determined him to extend our frontiers, and unite new provinces to the empire. His Majesty has described to you our flourishing situation, the fidelity of his allies, the glory of his armies, and the prosperous state of his finances. In short, in announcing to you that he had ordered his minister to place before you the expences of 1809 and 1810, his Majesty informed you, that although he was obliged to place at the disposition of his ministers an extraordinary credit of 100 millions, he did not ask any new impositions. It is thus that, after many years of war, conquests, and creations, our Sovereign terminates his discourse; whilst the Government who wishes to contend against him, every year demands new loans, imposts, and sacrifices from the English people. A few days after that memorable sitting your deputation came to lay at the foot of the throne the homage of your devotion, your love; and through your President, who enjoys the esteem of our monarch, and your merited confidence, you made known the noble and simple principles which guide, and the sentiments that animate you. In that audience you experienced fresh pledges of the paternal affection of his Majesty.—The solemn forms of the opening of your Session being fulfilled, the Minister of the interior in great detail pointed out the situation of the empire. Sixteen departments have been united to France, producing a population of five millions, and a revenue of 100 millions. The communications opened between the Scheldt and the Baltic, between the north and south of Italy, render our maritime supplies independent of the enemy's squadrons.—The Minister has spoken to you of the progress of the University,

the organization of the imperial Courts, which will restore to justice its force and dignity, and the creation of the great seminaries, of the acquisition or the repairing of a number of churches, of the success of industry which makes amends by the discoveries of genius for privations which war causes. He has informed you of the immense works undertaken to construct bridges, dig canals, drain marshes, embellish cities, &c. these works have cost nearly 380 millions; they thus equal, in two years, the efforts which were formerly made in a century.—You have not seen without surprise upon all the points of our coast and frontiers, those fortifications which prudence erects or repairs in the midst of triumphs. The activity which reigns in all the ports, the works undertaken at Antwerp, Flushing, Cherbourg, Ostend, and Terneuse, those armaments which prepare for the future successes of our marine and new destinies for the ocean, and the prosperous state of the public treasury which has to provide for so many expences. Such is the picture which has been traced to you. Happy the reign in which the recital of facts renders eulogium unnecessary.—After the presentation which has been made to you, Gentlemen, of two projects to create new sub-perfectures, and of a great number of transactions which interest the communes, you have adopted the project of a law upon the finances. The satisfaction which its examination afforded you, is too great to make it necessary for me to re-state the details.—The Orator of your Commission of Finance has said upon this important law all that could be added to the motives developed by the Orators from the Council of State. He has pointed out the advantages of the order established, by which five or six months are sufficient to examine and check the accounts of so many different administrations. He has remarked the amelioration which has taken place in the proceedings for the recovery of the contributions; the moderate expence of prosecution has not escaped him. He has with equal sagacity viewed the different causes of the increase of the State revenues, which at present amount to 985 millions, and the reason of the augmentation of the expence of the different departments. We have acquired 300 leagues of coast, and 10,000 sailors. Such acquisitions demand an increase of expence, but they give at the same time the means of providing for it.—The economy intro-



duced into many branches of the administration—the augmentation of the produce of the customs, the measures adopted relative to tobacco, which, without pressing upon the people, give the State the advantage which some companies exclusively enjoyed, and furnish the means of diminishing the land-tax; all give a complete assurance of constantly seeing our resources superior to our expenditure. The liquidation of the years preceding 1808 is effected; that of the following years is considerably advanced: that of the present year is completed; no inquietude exists with respect to the future. France has no occasion for any increase of the customs, nor for loans, nor for any new taxes.—Thus you have evident proofs of the happy situation of our finances, and certainly they ought to excite as much confidence in our fellow-citizens, as fear in our enemies.—At the moment when, by order of his Majesty, those satisfactory representations were placed under your eyes, a shout of triumph reached us from Spain; the junction of our armies were effected; Badajoz was delivered; and Marshal Suchet had overthrown the walls of Tarragona in presence of the English, the mortified spectators of this victory. A garrison of 18,000 men, courageous and obstinate, has not been able to resist French valour; 10,000 prisoners and a great number of cannon and standards are the trophies of the conquerors: noble presages, which confirm the hopes given to us a short time since by a monarch, all whose predictions victory is accustomed to fulfil.—At the same instant cries of distress issued from the bosom of the British Isles; credit, which supported her colossal and factitious power, was shaken; and that Government, already banished from the Continent, but which nevertheless boasted, amidst the cumbrous heaps of its manufactures, of being able to exchange its productions for all the gold of Mexico and of Peru, is now forced to proclaim its error, to acknowledge that it loses public confidence, and to propose the enforcement of a paper money.—The English Government desires war, the monopoly of commerce, and the domination of the seas; its allies are either destroyed or lost to it; it ruins all those whom it wishes to subsidize; it exhausts its people in useless efforts; it is punished for its selfishness by its state of insolation; and, after having heaped loan upon loan, tax upon tax, be-

sieged by complaints, threatened with commotions, it is reduced to propose to the people, by way of resource, a fictitious money, which has no other pledge but a confidence which exists no longer.—The Emperor, on the other hand wishes for peace, and the liberty of the seas; he has 800,000 men under arms; the Princes of Europe are his allies; his whole empire enjoys profound tranquillity: without loans, without anticipations, 954 millions, raised with facility, secure the free execution of his noble plans; and his majesty commissions us to address you only in the language of satisfaction and hope.—What confidence, gentlemen, ought this parallel to inspire: Diffuse it among your fellow-citizens, communicate to them the impressions you have received; your task will be easy; you will find them all animated with the same sentiments towards a sovereign, who has no other object in his labours than the happiness and the glory of his people. M. de Segur, after having read the decree which ordered the closing of the session, came down from the tribune amidst acclamations of *Live the Emperor!*

M. THE PRESIDENT then spoke, with the view of pointing out, that it was the happy destiny of the Legislative Body never to assemble but in order to associate themselves in the illustrious labours of the Government, or to be able to form a better judgment of their wisdom, by seeing their valuable results; that the Deputies of the Legislative Body, after having received, through the medium of the Orator of the Council of State, the assurances of his Majesty's satisfaction, were happy in returning to their homes, to have it in their power to communicate to their fellow-citizens only new benefits on the part of Government, and that no other obligation had been imposed upon them this session but that of gratitude.—Six copies were ordered to be printed of the speeches of M. de Segur, and of the President.—M. the President then, in conformity to the Decree, declared that the session of 1811 was terminated, and the Assembly rose.

FRANCE.—*M. Regnaud's Address to the Emperor on the subject of the Finances; and his account of the Progress made in the business of the CADASTRE, or valuation of the lands.—July, 1811.*

SIRE,—I present to your Imperial Majesty, the accounts of the Administration of the Finances in 1809, and in 1810.—It



results from these accounts, that the services of 1806, 7, 8, and 9, have been paid, or that there are sufficient funds to discharge all their expences.

The service of 1810 is finished. The Ministers have presented, each for his own department, a statement of the actual expences. These expences are considerable, and the war of the Peninsula is, in part, the cause thereof: nevertheless, the state of the Finances is such, that no part of the reserve-fund will be necessary to complete the discharge of that service; but we are still too near 1810, for me to think myself justified in proposing to your Majesty to appropriate that reserve-fund to the expences of 1811: it may happen that the result of the definitive liquidations may somewhat exceed the latest calculations presented by the ministers, and I therefore think it proper to postpone this proposal till next year.—The expences of 1811 are more considerable still than those of 1810. The increase results, in part, from the extraordinary armaments which your Majesty ordered during the first quarter of this year: nevertheless, the total of the resources of 1811, after having provided for the extraordinary expences of the first quarter, and satisfied all the demands of the ministers, formed upon the expenditure of the first six months, leaves still a reserve fund of 22 millions. I am, however, induced to think, that this fund will be necessary to pay all the expences of the current service.—Thus, all the years previous to 1811 are completely provided for, and the resources of the current year amount to more than 950 millions of real money, which place the treasury in a state to meet every demand.—I am not afraid to say it,—history does not present a period when the finances of a great empire were in so prosperous a state; it cannot be equalled but in a country whose wealth is founded on the fertility of its soil, and on the great number of its inhabitants. In such a country there is no uncertainty as to the produce of the public revenue, since contributions are assessed in suitable proportions between the landholders and the consumers. The payment of taxes on property, and of duties on commodities, is equally secured by the constant produce of the land, and by the habitual wants of an immense population. Your Majesty's treasury is, in consequence, always plen-

tifully supplied; it pays to the day all demands upon it; nor does it require the assistance of intermediary credit to facilitate the receipts. The bills accepted (in advance) by the receivers of contributions, which at the beginning of my Ministry were so low as four per cent. discount per month, are not even to be seen now in the money-market, and monied people would be glad to discount them at the rate of four per cent. a year; but the Treasury receives directly the amount of those bills in proportion as they become due; and its leading system is now to receive and to pay every where, at the least possible expence, and with the least possible carriage of coin. In so vast an empire, this is in itself a grand and an important task to fulfil.—Should your Majesty turn your attention to agriculture, that source of all wealth, you will find it in the most flourishing state; and interior commerce has all the activity which it can be supposed to acquire from the multifarious wants of a population consisting of forty millions of souls.—It is thus that the revenues of the State have been gradually increasing, and have been kept up in such a way as to allow your Majesty to carry on at the same time the military operations necessary for the consolidation of the empire, and the works of utility and of ornament which are now in progression every where, both in the interior of the empire and in the sea-ports. In the year 1808, about 100 millions were expended for the ordinary repair of roads; for the making of new ones; for the construction of new bridges; for the necessary repairs of old ones; for draining; for navigation; for canals; for bringing the waters of the Ourcq to Paris; for works of utility and of ornament in the departments, and in the capital; for land and sea fortifications; for ports, &c.—One hundred and ten millions have been laid out on works of the same nature in the year 1809; one hundred and thirty-eight millions in 1810; and they will require one hundred fifty-five millions for 1811.—This makes on the whole a sum of upwards of five hundred millions appropriated, in the course of four years, to works, the greater part of which were not actually wanting; but this arises from that provident spirit which forms one of the principal characteristics of your Majesty's Government.

(To be continued.)